



WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

BACKGROUND

- On-Site Sewage System Rules (Chapter 246-272 WAC) adopted by the SBOH in March 1994 (effective January 1, 1995) after six years of extensive stakeholder work and public review process.
- Several high-profile contentious issues extended the rule revision process, involving the legislature (JARRC and other legislative committees), state agencies, local health officers, and private other sector practitioners.
- Among many other things, the 1995 on-site rules authorize the department to convene an On-Site Advisory Committee to assist in the review of program services and to make recommendations concerning department policy and regulations.
- DOH has completed review of the on-site rule and is recommending revision. The On-Site Advisory Committee is the preferred vehicle for initial broad-scale policy direction, followed by specific rule revision activity.

CURRENT STATUS

- The Wastewater Management Program is convening the first meeting of the On-Site Wastewater Advisory Committee (OAC) on October 12, 2000.
- The OAC is a large committee (over 20 members) representing the broad and diverse stakeholder group with interest, knowledge, and experience in the field of on-site sewage treatment. The initial work of this committee's broad scale review of the wastewater management program—is anticipated to lead to a Final Report of Recommendations by July 2001.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

- An anticipated element of the July 2001 report is the recommendation for extensive review and revision of the on-site sewage system rules, a recommendation that would be consistent with the department's completed rule review. Future work on rule revision is expected to begin July 2001.
- Future rule review/revision is likely to involve many contentious issues, requiring considerable stakeholder input, staff support work, and extensive public review lasting eighteen months or more

BOARD ACTION

- No action needed at this time.
- Future reports to the board may be useful in raising awareness of the issues that may come before the board as a result of the activities reported here.

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